

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

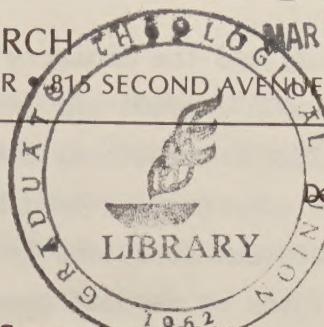
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LUTHERANS, ANGLICANSURGED TOWARD COMMUNION

83222

NEWBURY, Eng. (DPS, Nov. 15) -- An international Anglican-Lutheran working group has urged the two communions to continue moving toward "full communion" even if all the implications of that concept are not completely known at this time.

Meeting here Nov. 28- Dec. 2, Church representatives from Canada, England, the United States, Namibia, Norway, Sweden, Tanzania and West Germany said in their report that full communion goes "beyond sharing the same altar", and "implies a community of life, an exchange and commitment to one another in respect to major decisions on questions of faith, order, and morals." Among possibilities existing when Churches are geographically close, they noted, are "common worship, study, witness, evangelism, and promotion of justice, peace, and love."

The working group identified five issues Lutheran and Anglican Churches must agree upon before reaching full communion: authority in the Church, the Gospel and its implications, justification/salvation,

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the sacraments, and the ministry and its ordering. Full communion, the group stated would include the sharing of the sacraments "subject to such safeguards as ecclesial discipline may properly require"; bishops taking part in consecration of bishops of other Churches; the exercising of liturgical functions in each other's congregations, and having "recognized organs of regular consultation and communication."

The joint working group had been asked by the Anglican Consultative Council and the Lutheran World Federation to assess the results of the dialogues proposed by specific working groups in Africa, Europe and the U.S., to make recommendations on how Anglicans and Lutherans might achieve full communion and to suggest procedures that would assure closer cooperation. The report now goes to the two parent bodies for official transmission to the Churches.

An international Lutheran-Anglican dialogue was carried out from 1970 until 1972 and reached substantial doctrinal agreement which has been carried forward in regional work. In the United States, "Interim Eucharistic Sharing" was approved in September, 1982 by the Episcopal Church and three Lutheran Churches in the U.S. That same month, the European regional dialogue approved a report that spelled out doctrinal agreements and convergences between two communions.

The sessions here were chaired by Archbishop Edward Scott of the Anglican Church of Canada and Swedish Lutheran Archbishop Olof Sundby. Anglican members of the working group are: Bishop John Gibbs of Coventry, England; N.S. Hamupempe, Namibia; William A. Norgren, Episcopal Church Center; F. Ntiruka, Tanzania. The Lutheran members are: Bishop James Crumley, Lutheran Church in America; Per Lonning, Strasburg, France; Bishop Sebastian Kolowa, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Participating consultants were: G.B. Braund, Anglican Consultative Council; Gunther Gassman, Lutheran World Federation; Christopher Hill, Lambeth Palace; C. H. Mau Jr., general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation and William Rusch, Lutheran Church in America ecumenical officer.

SEABURY PRESS DROPS

BOOK PUBLISHING ROLE

DPS 83223

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec.15) — Under a mandate from the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, the Seabury Press board of trustees has discontinued the Press's trade book publishing operation.

Meeting at the Episcopal Church Center here Dec. 12, the board members followed that action by naming three of their members to oversee continuing operations and transition and then all the remaining members submitted their resignations effective immediately. The Press, which was created in 1952 to publish and market Christian education resources, had entered the religious trade book field in the late 1950's. A period of modest prosperity was followed by more than a decade of loss and, at this time, the Press faced continuing annual deficits of \$250,000.

The Executive Council, as sponsor of the Press, authorized a loan of up to \$500,000 without interest for no more than two years to meet current obligations and the expenses of transition.

In a prepared statement, the board noted that the Professional Services that the Press had provided for the Council and other national Church agencies would be continued with the Professional Service staff as part of the Church Center operation. The statement also said that Seabury staff from the trade book program would be provided "such assistance as may be possible" in finding new positions. The Professional Services prepares resources for the Executive Council ranging from free materials and posters to pamphlets for sale. It will also oversee order fulfillment, billing and shipping of these materials and will be available for printing assignments by other Church bodies and agencies, such as the General Convention.

The imprimatur of the Press will be retained for occasional Council publications. This will protect it for future use if the Press ever re-enters the general publishing field.

In its early years, the Press was responsible, with the Rev. John Heuss, for developing and publishing the Seabury Series Curriculum and the Church's Teaching Series, works that found their way into most parish education programs. It soon expanded into gift editions of the

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Book of Common Prayer. One of the first books it published in the religious trade field was Bishop C. Kilmer Myer's Light the Dark Streets, of his experiences ministering among the urban poor.

Although a successful children's book line was added, the declining popularity of established, formal curricula led to increasing deficits despite staff cuts. A distinguished line of European theological material was added in the 1970's but this failed to reverse the situation. The Press sold the children's line near the end of the decade to meet its financial needs.

An agreement to share in joint publication of the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 and publication of the Church's New Teaching Series stemmed the tide briefly but much of the existing trade line -- 120 titles -- was lost to the Press when W.M. Linz left the presidency and took that list by contract.

Throughout its history, the Press shared the Episcopal market with Church Hymnal Corporation -- publishers of the worship manuals -- Forward Movement and Morehouse-Barlow.

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BISHOP CLEARED, FREED;

MINISTERED IN JAIL

DPS 83224

MEXICO CITY, (DPS, Dec. 15) -- After 73 days in a state prison in Acapulco, the Rt. Rev. Jose G. Saucedo, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central and South Mexico, was released by the judge in charge of the case.

In a brief note, the judge ordered "the immediate and absolute freedom" of the bishop in a ruling that appears to exonerate him completely of any wrongdoing.

Saucedo was accused by John P. Black, a deposed American priest, of holding property which Black claimed as his own. In fact, the property was purchased with a church loan which was paid off by the income of the parish.

The bishop was arrested on Sept. 20 in front of his home in Mexico City and taken to Acapulco where the suit was filed. He was released on Dec. 2, three days before his 59th birthday. "The fellowship I enjoyed was such that I wanted to stay one day longer to say goodbye to all my new prison companions who have become real friends," Saucedo said, "but the law required that I leave immediately."

Commenting on his time in prison, he said that it was "very positive" and it "will be recorded in my heart for the rest of my life."

He arrived at the penitentiary in clerical dress which soon was changed to a uniform. "I observed all the internal rules and regulations. I got up at 5 a.m., swept floors, I cut grass and did all the things that inmates were supposed to do," said Saucedo with a sense of pride.

He claims his ministry in prison was the most "rewarding" experience of the whole ordeal. "I celebrated the Holy Eucharist regularly, I gave a great number of talks and spent many, many hours in counseling," the Bishop recalled.

He says that the fellowship in prison is something that must be experienced in order to be understood. "When I first arrived, my companions provided me with a toiletries and even an old blanket for my cement bed," he reports.

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DPS 83224/2

"On Thursday and Sundays many members of the Church and family came to see me. That was always a source of strength. I am most grateful to all the people around the world who sent letters, cards and telegrams. I felt very much part of the whole Anglican Communion," he said.

"I had no privileges and I believe that this was an important factor in gaining the respect and esteem of my new acquired friends," he said. He reported that at night during prayer meetings many family concerns were brought up. The prayers for prisoners and captives in the Prayer Book were repeated in unison. "I never thought much of that prayer until now", he said.

Saucedo affirmed that a prison ministry in order to be effective must be done from within. "It serves very little purpose to come and go immediately," he warned.

With a sense of humor, Saucedo recalled that he lost two of his acolytes when they were set free.

Saucedo is married to the former Juanita Ray Griffith, an American whom he met while studying at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. They have four children.

Saucedo was consecrated Bishop of Mexico in 1959. In 1972 the country was divided into three dioceses. One of his brothers, Melchor, has just retired as Bishop of the western diocese.

In summing up Saucedo said: " I can say one thing: that my faith has become stronger, my ministry has been strengthened, my friends have proven to be loyal, and I have received more than I have given. I have seen Christ in a very real way. To my brothers and sisters of the Church my eternal gratitude, to my prison mates God's blessings."

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THOMPSON TO SUCCEED

AS CDO DIRECTOR

DPS 83225

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec. 15) -- At the recent meeting of the Church Deployment Board in Phoenix, Ariz., the Rt. Rev. C. Charles Vache, Chairman, announced that the Presiding Bishop, upon the Board's recommendation, had appointed William A. Thompson to succeed the Rev. Roddey Reid as executive director of the Church Deployment Office. The appointment will take effect on Jan. 1, 1984, when Reid retires.

Thompson has served as the associate director of the office for 12 years and brings not only this experience to his new position but also his experience in the business sector, where he served with Pfizer Inc., and Celanese in the area of personnel. He is a graduate of Cornell University and holds graduate degrees from Columbia University (MBA) and New York University (JD).

Thompson is married and is the father of three children. He is also a member of Emmanuel Church, Great River, N.Y., which he served most recently as senior warden. He is a member of the Long Island Diocesan Commission to Study Clergy Salaries and the Committee on Dispatch of Business, the national Church Council for the Development of Ministry, and a Director of the national Church Career Development Council.

In making the announcement, Vache also appointed a committee consisting of Mrs. Mary Lou Lavellee, the Rev. Robert N. Davis, and Thompson to begin the search for an assistant director to take Thompson's place.

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U.S. HUNGER PANEL

HEARS CHURCH GROUPS

DPS 83226

BOSTON, (DPS, Dec. 15) -- Episcopal hunger program advocates were among dozens of Church and secular leaders who tried to tell a Presidential study group that the dimensions of the hunger problem in this country are overwhelming the private sector.

At the last of seven scheduled hearings held around the country, members of the President's Task Force on Food Assistance spent Dec. 2 in historic Fanueil Hall here gathering the evidence that many hope will support a call for dramatic improvement in federal food programs. Appointed in September after President Reagan professed to be puzzled over the fact that there were hungry people in the United States, the 13-member citizen's panel is to report to the White House in January.

Although some of the testimony consisted of stories of the pain and indignity endured by those who are forced to seek help, the witnesses tried to bear down on the body of data that supports their plea and on pressing the panelists into a wider examination.

In that light, the Rev. Terry Henry, leadoff witness for the Episcopal Church, asked the panelists: "If government is asking the private sector ... to take on a greater share of the burden of caring for the poor, the destitute, the homeless, the hungry, how does it perceive its role in helping this to take place?"

Citing the Church's programs through Jubilee Ministry and the Coalition for Human Needs and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, and the authority and mandate from the General Convention and the Executive Council, Henry, who is chairman of the National Hunger Committee, sketched a picture of churches trying to respond to both the immediate needs of people and the prophetic call of the Gospel. "We are well aware," he told the panel, "of the spiritual growth that has taken place in those congregations which have embarked on ambitious programs of hunger relief. At least one of the Commissioners of this Task Force can speak to that! We are equally well aware that people who work in these programs talk to the clients and are becoming sensitized to the underlying causes of hunger."

DPS 83226/2

The Commissioner to who he referred is Betsy Rollins, an Episcopalian, director of a much-lauded hunger project, and the only panelist with direct experience in feeding programs. Henry was joined at the witness table by Dr. David Crean, staff officer for Hunger programs at the Episcopal Church Center, and by the Rev. Canon E.M. Womack, executive director of the Episcopal Pastoral Center in Denver.

Crean and other witnesses were challenged by panelist J.P. Bolduc who asserted that actual government food stamp outlays had increased. They conceded that but pointed out that every other program which supports poor and hungry people had been cut, thereby placing a greater burden on actual food stamp programs. Bolduc, a Maryland businessman, recently served on the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, a body which recommended massive additional food stamp cuts.

Although most of the hearing was restrained in tone, Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis accused the government of "spending \$50 million a year to overthrow the Nicaraguan government when we can't feed our own kids." Dukakis was testifying before the man he succeeded as governor, Edward King. During his term, King sought stringent cuts in the benefits paid to families with dependent children, a cut-off of unemployment benefits to longterm unemployed persons over 45, and a harsh workfare program.

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TRIENNIAL PANEL

REVAMPS STRUCTURE

DPS 83227

by Salome Breck,

The Colorado Episcopalian

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec. 15) -- At its fall meeting, the Triennial Committee approved some major organizational changes in that body charged with organizing, and running the Triennial Meeting of the Women of the Episcopal Church

Under the new plan, The Committee chairwoman, Sylvia Corey, who was elected last spring, will head the executive committee and serve as official spokesperson and also chief executive for the group.

The newly-elected Presiding Officer, Marylyn Adams, will work closely with the chairwoman. Adams' main responsibility will be the planning and execution of Triennial Meeting itself, scheduled for Sept. 8-14 at Anaheim, Calif.

As Presiding Officer she will organize delegate committees and share responsibilities with Corey.

The remaining officers elected at the recent meeting are: Triennial Meeting Assistant Presiding Officer, Eleanor Smith, Province VII; Assistant Triennial Committee Chairman, Lillian LaPorte, Province III; and Finance Chairman, Marcy Walsh, Province IV.

Formerly, the Triennial Committee chair presided only at meetings of the Committee, and the Presiding Officer presided at Triennial Meeting itself.

The change, naming one head -- Corey -- for both Triennial Committee and Triennial Meeting, was made to avoid confusion.

Members of the Executive Committee will be assigned by the Chair to undertake travel and speaking engagements for dioceses and provinces, as booked. Requests for such speakers should be sent to Corey, at 927 31st Ave., N.E., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33704.

Delegates to Triennial should be elected at the 1984 Diocesan ECW Annual Meetings, and their names sent to Adams at 1519 Washington Dr., Miami, Okla., by Dec. 31, 1984.

DPS 83227/2

The committee also considered the possibility of substituting forum-style workshops dealing with issues for the present practice of presenting resolutions. This would be a democratic procedure, as all workshops could have input from those attending.

The Triennial Committee consists of representatives elected from each province, two members elected for the previous Triennial Committee and five who are elected as representatives at large, at the time of the Triennial Meeting.

"We see the streamlining and simplifying of structure as helpful to all our women," said Corey. "Today's Episcopal Women are in transition. They want to know how to serve God where they are, right now; they do not want to go to meetings which, in their opinion, do not meet their needs. Many are working part or full time. They also wish to be the Body of Christ in their environment. We need to nurture all women, wherever they are in life."

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CHN'S MINISTRY

RAPIDLY EXPANDING

DPS 83228

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec.15)-- During 1983, the Coalition for Human Needs approved funding in the amount of \$987,656 for 123 programs. Of this amount, \$346,275 went to Diocesan/Congregation/Ecumenical outreach programs.

Included in these figures are 11 programs funded from the special account for Jubilee Ministry funding. Funding for these programs total \$100,588. Monies in this special account were received from an anonymous gift designated for food (\$25,000); and from the Diocese of Missouri (\$35,000); Massachusetts (\$1, 334.95); Texas (\$500.00); Taiwan (\$300.00); Newark (\$111.92) ; Rio Grande (\$25.00). An additional \$75,000 was approved from the 1983 Program Budget/Jubilee Ministry per the June Executive Council meeting.

According to the Rev. Earl A. Neil, staff officer for the Coalition at the Episcopal Church Center, the Coalition received the largest volume of requests in its seven-year history. "Requests numbered 215 which is a 97 percent increase over the last six years and a 41 percent increase over the last three years" he noted. "This huge increase is directly related to the present economic realities of today and to the economic policies of the Reagan Administration. Federal budget cuts in social-service programs have resulted in private sector resources being innundated with requests for financial assistance and training in program development and management.

"It is naive to assume that the private sector can fill the void created by a cutback in federal monies. On the contrary, past and present programs funded by the Coalition have lost millions of dollars in private sector commitments because of cuts in the Comprehensive Employment Training and Volunteers in Service to America programs which had provided workers and volunteers," Neil said.

"Hopefully and prayerfully, NEXT STEP/JUBILEE MINISTRY will stimulate our Episcopal Church family to respond to the daily survival needs of people and to confront those institutions and social arrangements which have placed them in survival situations," he concluded.

GRAND RAPIDS PARISH

RECLAIMS PROPERTY

DPS 83229

by the Rev. Joseph Neiman
Western Michigan Churchman

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (DPS, Dec. 15) — An Episcopal congregation here has become the latest to prevail in the series of lengthy and costly legal disputes involving parish properties claimed by both the Episcopal Church and by dissident congregations.

For more than three years, the property of St. Paul's Episcopal Church here has been in a legal twilight zone, but with the resolution both the rector and the bishop of Western Michigan are taking steps to seek reconciliation.

The faithful parishioners re-entered their church in time for Thanksgiving and Bishop Charles E. Bennison held a service of rededication and reconciliation there on Dec. 4. Speaking after the final court orders were in hand, Bennison said: "We are most grateful for the return of our church buildings and that the Canon law of the Church has been upheld by the civil courts. However, my concern remains for those who have left us, and I pray daily that they will now return 'home.' I stand ready to do whatever I can within the constraints of the Gospel and Church authority to bring about reconciliation."

In a letter sent to both groups of the divided congregation, the Rev. John L. English, rector, assured them that he would be "happy to speak and listen, not argue, with anyone who would like to talk about the last four years. I am not asking that we all forget the past, but rather that we put it behind us and look forward to a future in which we can come together in love and charity as a reconciled family."

After the Anglican dissident groups were formed in the wake of the 1979 General Convention, the then rector, James R. Sharp, and members of the congregation sought to leave the Episcopal Church and carry the property by deed into a new corporation under the Anglican Catholic Church. Bennison and the St. Paul wardens won an injunction to halt that action and the legal battle was joined.

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The first round -- 16 months later -- went to the faithful congregation when a circuit court ruled the court did have jurisdiction and that, under state law, a group leaving a religious body cannot take the property so long as there are other members who wish to remain faithful. The property was ordered returned, but the dissident group appealed the ruling. Citing cases in California and Colorado, the group argued that the court had applied the wrong standard -- one based on the hierarchical nature of the Church --and that the state law was an unconstitutional interference in religion anyway.

The appeal was finally rejected 18 months later by an appellate court which not only upheld the standard first applied but asserted that the courts are bound to defer -- on doctrinal matters --to a Church's laws and that a change in doctrine cannot become the basis for a property dispute. A final appeal to the state's supreme court was refused and the diocese trundled back to the original court to obtain enforcement.

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3 DIOCESES QUICK

TO AID SALVADORANS

DPS 83230

NEW YORK (DPS, Dec. 15) — When the government of El Salvador granted "amnesty" to hundreds of detainees in early December, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief had little more than a day to find and prepare sponsors for the nine Salvadorans that the Episcopal Church had been asked to sponsor. Phone calls by the refugee/ migration staff found a caring reponse from Episcopalians in three dioceses.

In Chapel Hill, N.C. a family of five is being housed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wagner. The Church of the Holy Family led by the rector, the Rev. Gary Fulton, along with a coalition of neighboring congregations accepted the challenge of sponsorship with enthusiasm. Mrs. Wagner, who met the family at the Raleigh-Durham Airport in the early morning hours of Dec. 1, remarked that the refugees were very happy to be in the U.S. and were looking forward to getting to know their new community.

The Rev. Kirk Galloway, diocesan refugee coordinator in the Diocese of Chicago and the Rev. George Monroe, priest-in-charge of St. Albans Church, agreed to sponsor three refugees. Hoping to draw upon the resources available in the predominantly Hispanic neighborhood surrounding St. Alban's, the parish is offering these refugees a safe haven and opportunities to become self-sufficient. Monroe views these sponsorships as an opportunity to expand the outreach ministry at St. Alban's as well as a way to bring hope to people who were forced to give up almost everything.

A group of Polish refugees in Connecticut, who themselves were sponsored through the Presiding Bishop's Fund, expressed their joy and excitement at the opportunity to be a sponsoring community for a refugee from another country and culture. Mr. Jerzy Bielec, a representative of the group, met the Salvadoran refugee on Nov. 30 at Kennedy airport and remarked "I've been here before and I know what he must be feeling."

The sponsoring group is receiving back up support from Grace Episcopal Church, St. Paul's on the Green and Christ Church, all in Norwalk, Conn. This unusual sponsorship arrangement is being coordinated by the Rev. Ruth Bersin, diocesan refugee coordinator.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Episcopal Church Center is accepting applications for two professional positions.

The first is for the position of Assistant Director, Church Deployment Office. This officer reports to the executive director of the Church Deployment Office and is responsible for programming searches for vacant positions using computer technology as well as for general assistance in the office operations. The incumbent will help develop deployment procedures, training, forms and manuals. Applicants should be familiar with computer usage and be experienced with the deployment process. The Career Development Counseling program would be a helpful experience. Applicants must be Episcopal clergy registered with the Office.

The other position is that of Assistant Publications Director in the Communication unit. This is a new position, reporting to the Publications Director in writing, editing and design of printed resources developed to support the Church program. Applicants must have experience in writing, copy-editing, proof-reading and rewriting and have some knowledge of printing, production and design techniques and a broad knowledge of the structure and program of the Episcopal Church. The ability to write clear, precise prose for brief informational and educational pieces is a must.

To apply for either of these positions, send resume and references to Barbara Quinn, Personnel, the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.

For the publications position, please include three writing samples. For the Deployment Officer, the CDO profile is required.

Deadline for the Deployment applications is **Feb. 15** and for the Publications applications is **Feb. 2**.

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